WHAT THE MILLER SAID

THE miller said that there were seventeen sieves through which the ground wheat passed before it came out below pure and white and fine in the shape of flour. The miller said that every one of the seventeen sieves was necessary to give the flour that fineness and whiteness for which the mill was famous. Less than that number of sieves would leave the flour a little too coarse and not absolutely white. Every one of the sieves took out something from the flour that was not desirable and that kept it from reaching the standard that the miller set for his flour.

How many lives there are that have passed through great tribulation and have come out white and pure! How hard it seems at the time of their severe trials, and how much we pity them because their lot is worse than ours! But how we wonder at them in the end and desire to be like them!

How similar life is to the flour mill. Through one testing after another we pass, for the Lord desires to have us purified; not seven times, or even seventeen times, perhaps, but many, many times we meet the tests of life until at last He has us ready for that place which He has prepared for us.

How sad it is that we sometimes grumble and complain at the sieves that the Miller sees best to put us through. If we only had the faith to go even into the valley of the shadow of death without fear, trusting in Him who has promised to be with those who put their trust in Him! How much better to hear, instead of words of grumbling and complaint, the words of the Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Remember the miller said that so many sieves were necessary to make the flour what it should be, but that it was worth it in the end. So our Lord says that we are not to marvel at the fiery tribulations that we must pass through in life, for they work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

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– the Simple One